



## New lease of life for Sea Road toilets

Just before Christmas the council was able to open the refurbished toilet block in Sea Road. This was the culmination of a long project for the council which sought to do the best for as many of the village's residents and visitors as possible. To that end, the former Ladies half of the block has been converted into a Hoist-Assisted Toilet (H.A.T.) while the Gents half has been converted into two fully-independent unisex cubicles.

At the time of writing, the H.A.T. is not open to the public as we are waiting to undergo some further testing of the hoist apparatus itself.

Cllr Rick McElroy, Chairman of the council's Amenities Committee which led this project, said, "We are really happy to be able to offer the best possible toilets to all villagers and visitors alike. For many years the toilet block had been nothing more than functional but now it is something we can all be proud of."

Sea Road toilet block before and after the refurbishment.



The council thanks everyone who has contributed to this project in any way especially Cloud 9, Inspired Designs, SENCAT, Disability Action Group of East Preston, East Preston Festival Committee, East Preston Film Society, East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation, East Preston Yarnbombers, West Sussex County Council, former councillors Carol Ellis and Michael Taggart and everyone who has donated anonymously.

## Village bus

Thank you to everyone who responded to the article we published in the Autumn 2019 newsletter. Most respondents took the article in the spirit in which it was published, i.e. a straw poll to give the council some indication of whether this was a project it should pursue.

Most of the feedback was in support of a bus service to the southern end of the village, although some serious concerns were also raised. With the additional information you gave us, the council was able to meet with the Chief Executive of Compass Travel to discuss the proposal in much greater detail and depth.

Below the council offers you further information and asks you again to let us know your thoughts.

**Proposed route:** from Rustington Sainsburys, the westbound bus will travel down Station Road and turn into Vicarage Lane. At the eastern end of Vicarage Lane it will turn right into The Street and on into Fairlands. It will then turn right into Sea Road and travel down to and around the Village Green. The bus will follow the same route in reverse out of the village back onto Station Road to carry on to Rustington and Littlehampton as per the existing no 12 route. The eastbound bus will come from Littlehampton Tesco, along the coast road, through Rustington shops, onto Station Road, and come into the village through Vicarage Lane as above, ending up at Rustington Sainsbury's.



At the time of writing the council has scheduled a meeting with Angmering Parish Council with a view to the service including the centre of Angmering.

**Likely annual running costs for the village:** £20,000. This equates to an average of £7.14 per Council Tax-paying household per year.

**Likely infrastructure costs:** we do not foresee any infrastructure costs at this time.

**Size and style of bus:** the Compass route 12 currently uses Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 buses as seen in the photograph below. This is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of a Stagecoach no. 700. Each bus is wheelchair-accessible and has a maximum capacity for of 46 passengers – 29 seated and 17 standing.

**Cost to travel:** tbc, buses accept contactless payment and there will soon be an app too.

**Can I use my bus-pass?:** Yes

Please let us know your thoughts on this matter. If you have already let us know and the information above does not change your view, you do not need to let us know that. Thanks.

# East Preston Parish Council council tax for 2020/21

Each year, this council spends money in the village and that money is part of the council tax you pay annually to Arun District Council. The money raised through the council tax which this council can spend is called the precept.

East Preston councillors devote a lot of time to keeping East Preston a lovely place to live and part of that is spending time building a budget each year to encompass both short-term and long-term projects.

At the January Full Council meeting, the council agreed an annual increase of £3.33 to £98.43 per year for a Band D property. This equates to an increase of 6½p a week. For those who prefer such figures in percentage terms, that is an increase of 3.5%. The council did not agree this increase lightly - every line of the council's budget is considered by the relevant committee before a figure is recommended to the council.

Despite the increase, the council's budget will still be higher than the amount raised from your council taxes in the coming financial year. The council will dip into its reserves to address this shortfall. Some of this shortfall will also be addressed by the increased amount of interest

the council has been earning on its reserves over the past couple of years thanks to regular reviewing of its bank accounts to ensure the council's reserves are working hard for the village.

Residents on the council's e-mailing list were once again given the opportunity to comment upon this increase in the days leading up to the council meeting. Only three households chose to comment and their comments were seen by the council prior to the meeting.

This increase in the council's budget is mainly for two projects the council is currently working upon - CCTV for the Village Green and the provision of a village bus - see articles elsewhere in this issue for information on both these projects.

The council has delivered, in the past year, refurbished unisex toilets in Sea Road alongside a Hoist-Assisted Toilet, a successful Food & Drink Festival and a successful Christmas Celebrations event, both enjoyed by many residents, two playschemes for younger children, all from an office which also helps numerous residents on a very wide range of issues and concerns.

## Correspondence Corner

### Manners - on two legs or four

For many residents a dog is both their best friend and a loved member of their family, however as a responsible dog owner you are responsible for your dog. If you are a dog owner it's not your dog's fault their poo is being left around the village or that they are barking incessantly on the beach, it's yours. Leaving your dog's mess is unhygienic, smelly and a criminal offence that can and should attract an on-the-spot fine. If your dog creates a mess, please pick it up and put it in one of the many poo bins around the village. It only takes a minute and everyone will appreciate it.

But it's not just dog poo that can affect the amenity of the village. East Preston is a peaceful village, however excessive barking can be really upsetting, especially early in the morning. Barking is your dog's way of talking to you but it can disturb the peace of the beach and the village and takes away the pleasure of what should be an enjoyable time for everybody. It can be frustrating when owners do not realise their pet's incessant barking is disturbing others. Incessant barking is not cute or fun but a sign of poor training and a misunderstanding of what your dog is trying to tell you. If your dog barks a lot or at particular times it may be worth going to a trainer to learn how to better understand your dog.



We have lived in and around the village for more than twenty years and look forward to the next twenty years, so if you are an owner, please remember whether you are a human or a dog - manners matter!

Thank you, EM

The council apologises to anyone who received the Autumn 2019 Newsletter late and for any inconvenience this caused. Unfortunately, although delivery of the newsletter started in plenty of time, very heavy rain and the addition of the delivery of the Official Guide meant our delivery company was unable to complete its task to its usual high standards. Please accept both the council's and the delivery company's apologies.



# Funday Sunday

We are delighted to let you know that 'Funday Sunday' is back! Building on the successful launch last October, we will be holding our 2nd event on:

**Sunday 3rd May at the East Preston Village Hall  
between 2pm and 5pm**

We will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe with music, dance and of course, a lovely tea, with delicious sandwiches, cream scones and cakes.

Music will be performed by Vintage Candy, a great hit at our first event.

So... come along and have fun, meet friends old and new and if you really feel like getting in the swing why not wear a 1940's style outfit! (small prize for the best-dressed).



Tickets will shortly be on sale from the East Preston Parish Council offices and East Preston Library - £10 each

## Native planting

As mentioned in the Correspondence Corner article last issue, the council was looking at adopting a Native Planting policy for the land it is responsible for around the village. This policy was adopted by the council at its meeting in December and is as follows:

The principles of the Native Planting policy are:

1. The council aims to plant native trees, shrubs, plants, bulbs and wildflower with the intent to primarily attract wildlife.
2. The council will consider a proposed site's suitability with regards to its use and access prior to any planting.
3. The council aims to follow the Right Place Planting approach - The principle is to consider the constraints and opportunities of the proposed planting site and the desired features (or not) when deciding on the best-matched tree, shrubs, plant species or wildflower.
4. The council will endeavour to select and purchase native trees, shrubs plants, bulbs and wildflowers that are of local provenance.

5. The council aims to consider which types of trees, shrubs, plants, bulbs and wildflowers will themselves be able to cope with a changing climate, which is projected to be a trend towards hotter, warmer and drier summers, wetter and windier winters.
6. The council will work closely with their contractors to ensure the principles of the Native Planting policy are followed.
7. The council aims to promote native and sensible planting to local groups and members of the general public.
8. This policy will cover the council's land at the Warren Recreation Ground, Two Acres, Village Green and 122-124 Sea Road, East Preston. This policy will also cover any planting the council carries out on other land in the village.

We hope local residents look at this policy before undertaking any new planting themselves. Through this policy, together we can help to provide local wildlife with what it needs in the way of shelter and food.

## Village Life

### March

- 2nd Full Council (6.30pm)
- 4th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 9th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)  
Audit & Governance Committee (7pm)
- 16th Amenities Committee (6pm)
- 23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)  
Community Engagement Committee (7pm)

### April

- 5th East Preston Beach Clean No. 15 (11am)
- 6th Full Council (7pm)
- 15th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am)
- 19th K.E.P.T. Village Tidy (11am)

- 20th Finance & General Purposes Committee (10am)  
Personnel Committee (6pm)
- 27th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)  
Major Events Committee (7pm)

### May

- 3rd Funday Sunday V.E. Day (2pm)
- 4th Annual Full Council (7pm)
- 11th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
- 18th Amenities Committee (6pm)
- 24th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)  
Community Engagement Committee (7pm)

Most council meetings are held at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road. However, for all meetings, please consult the Noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda and venue.

**\* Please note the above list may be subject to change.**

## More trees, better air quality

Trees are recognised as the lungs of the world. They may occasionally cause neighbour disputes but, in the main, who doesn't love trees and how they brighten the areas in which we play and work and rest?

If you would like to sponsor a tree on public land, in East Preston you can do this through West Sussex County Council (<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/road-and-roadside/donate-a-tree-scheme/>) or contact the Parish Council to discuss options in the village.

Last month, Jan Quick kindly donated a tree in memory of her late husband, David, a former councillor and most recently Chairman of the Disability Action Group. Here she is at Two Acres, planting the tree alongside Tony from Ferring Nurseries.



Thanks Jan.



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Help clean up our beach No.15



East Preston Beach Clean – **Sunday 5 April**

Meet alongside the beach kiosk at the bottom of Sea Road between **11am and midday**. Bags and litter picks will be provided at the start; tea, coffee and biscuits hopefully at the end. Bring your own gloves if possible.

For more information or to register your interest, please contact the Council Office on (01903) 770050 or [eparishcouncil3@btconnect.com](mailto:eparishcouncil3@btconnect.com)

## Thanks to....

Everyone who supported the East Preston Christmas Celebrations, both as participants and as helpers.

Celeste Amoo and Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church for providing somewhere for local residents to go for a sociable Christmas Day lunch.

Sandra and Dave at Twinkle Twist Events for decorating the Council Office window for Christmas at no charge to the village.

Please contact the office if you would like a large print version of this newsletter.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## New email addresses for the office

Continuing the council's adoption of a gov.uk domain name, the council officers have new email addresses as follows:

Simon Cross – Clerk to the Council  
[clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council  
[asstclerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)

Alison Roberts – Administrative Assistant  
[admin@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)

Tracy Khoo – book-keeper  
[finance@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:finance@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)

These email addresses will run in parallel with the existing email addresses for a while yet.



**Contact point:** Parish Clerk - Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk - Dawn Reid  
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Telephone: (01903) 770050 E-mail: [clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)

Website: <http://eastpreston-pc.gov.uk/>

Arun District Council (01903) 737500 West Sussex County Council (01243) 777100

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